

# Halloween

Trick or Treat in a Covid-19 2020



# **CDC Guidelines**

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>

The CDC list Low, Medium and High Risk activities:

# Low Risk

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house



# Medium Risk

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
  - a. If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
  - a. A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
  - b. Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.



# Medium Risk

- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
  - a. If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
  - a. If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
  - b. Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on [hosting gatherings or cook-outs](#).



# High Risk

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Using [alcohol or drugs](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- Traveling to a [rural](#) fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

# State of NH Safety Tips

## Nothing is Scariet than Spreading COVID-19 this Halloween

- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Consider wearing a mask over your nose and mouth when trick-or-treating and handing out treats.
- Avoid large gatherings or parties and find ways to trick-or-treat while staying at least 6 feet away from others, including when handing out and accepting treats
- Practice frequent hand cleaning – bring a bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer with you while trick-or-treating, and use it often.

### For Motorists

- Drive slowly and stay alert.
- Watch for children walking across the street or at intersections.
- Enter and exit driveways slowly, keep eyes out for children.
- After dark, keep eyes out for trick-or-treaters in dark clothing.
- New or inexperienced drivers should avoid driving after dark on Halloween.

### Trick-or-Treating

- Adults should accompany young children while they are out.
- Walk on sidewalks, not the street. Use crosswalks when crossing the street.
- Always travel in familiar, well-lit areas and stay in groups.
- After dark, carry a flashlight or glow stick to increase visibility.
- Phones down, heads up. Be aware of your surroundings.

# Town Safety Tips

- Encourage 6' distancing for both Trick or Treaters and candy givers
- Trick or treat in small groups with only family members (preferable) or close friends that your child has frequent contact with ie those in their classroom pod.
- Stay in your neighborhood as much as possible.
- Incorporate a mask into your costume. This can either be part of a costume example ninja or doctor or nurse or layered onto a costume. Do not put a plastic mask over another face covering.
- Carry hand sanitizer and use between houses. Do not use gloves.
- Candy givers **should not** pass candy to each individual child but have the candy out on the doorstep or a small table in small individual quantities.
- Candy givers should stay behind storm door or outside behind a table and sit 6 feet back from the table and replace candy for each trick or treat.
- Parents should accompany their children to ensure social distancing and sanitation is followed.
- If homes do not want to participate, they should shut their lights off and post a sign that they are not participating. Town could create a sign that all could use.
- Parents could also just give candy themselves to their children at each stop if they do not feel comfortable in going door to door.



## Conclusion

After having communications with our Health Officer, Fire Chief and Police Chief, We feel that Trick or Treat can be held safely as long as people follow safety protocols. Cancellation would be unenforceable while causing other risks that could cause a spread of Covid-19.

